



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Georgia improves score and ranking in
Small Family Child Care Home Standards**

State now ranks 11th in the nation in ensuring health, safety and well-being of children

ATLANTA, Ga., (March 9, 2012) – The National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) released its latest report this week, ranking states on their current small family child care home standards and oversight policies. The report, entitled *Leaving Children to Chance: NACCRRA's Ranking of State Standards and Oversight of Small Family Child Care Homes: 2012 Update* shows Georgia's score and ranking improving dramatically from the last report conducted in 2010.

Georgia scored 84 percent on the basic requirements needed to ensure that children are safe and in settings that promote healthy development. The state ranked 11th in the nation, significantly improving from 38th place in 2010.

"This significant improvement is a direct result of continuing efforts made by our providers; the Bright from the Start licensing team and my predecessor," said Bobby Cagle, commissioner for Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. "Our goal is to continue building on this improved performance to make early child care in Georgia among the best in the nation."

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The report ranks every state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense (DoD) child care system, on 16 basic standards focused on ensuring the health, safety and well-being of children while in family child care homes serving six or fewer children. States were ranked based on a point system with states earning a maximum of 150 points. This is NACCRRRA's sixth report reviewing state child care standards and oversight since 2007 and an update of NACCRRRA's 2010 review of state small family child care home standards.

Standards reviewed include: basic health and safety requirements; inspections prior to licensing; number of annual inspections and policies with regard to complaint-related inspections; types of background checks for child care providers and people in the household of licensed providers who are required to have a background check; provider education; initial training and annual training requirements; toys and materials required; learning activities required; group size limitations; and parent-provider communication requirements.

According to the report, the average state score (among states scoring points) was 69 (46 percent) of a possible score of 150 points. The entire report can be viewed at <http://www.naccrra.org/node/2215>

About Bright from the Start

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia's Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers federal nutrition programs, and manages voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to www.dec.al.ga.gov.